

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LAGOS 03353 121345Z

42

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8774

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

REF: STATE 073945

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S DRAFT OF SUGGESTED REMARKS FOR
AMBASSADOR EASUM'S CREDENTIALS CEREMONY AS REQUESTED REFTE:

2. QUOTE: I HAVE THE GREAT HONOR TO PRESENT TO YOU THE LETTERS
OF CREDENCE BY WHICH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
GERALD R. FORD, ACCREDITS ME AS HIS AMBASSDOR EXTRAORDINARY
AND PLENIPOTENTIARY TO THE FEDRAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA. I AM
DEEPLY CONSCIOUS OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES THIS MISSION ENTAILS
AND THE CHALLENGES&OPORTUNITIES IT WILL AFFORD AS WELL.
THIS IS A TIME OF MOMENTOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
IN NIGERIA AND A TIME OF SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS ON
THE WORLD SCENE. THE DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF THE
CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN NIGERIA AND
THE UNITED STATES HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT.

3. MYGOVERNMENT FOLLOWS WITH GREAT INTEREST YOUR CURRENT
ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
PARTICULARLY AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE IMPRESSIVE THIRD NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND THE PLAN FOR UNIVERSAL PRIMARY I.,
WE HOPE THE EXTENSIVE BUSINESS AND EDUCATIONAL CONTACTS AND THE
MUTUAL INTERESTS WHIC WE ENJOY WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE A CONSRUIE
CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROGRESS AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF NIGERIA.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 03353 121345Z

RM THE UNITED STATES HAS A RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE FROM NIGERIA,
AAND AS THE COUNTRY WITH THE SECOND LARGEST BLACK POPULATION IN THE
WORLD, RANKING ONLY AFTER THE FEDRAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, MY
COUNTRY HAS MANY STRONG LINKS WITH YOURS. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD
TO THE SECOND WORLD BLACK AND AFRICAN FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS AND
CULTURE, WHICH WE WISH ALL POSSIBLE SUCCESS AND WHICH WE TRUST WILL
CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO THE STRENGTHENING OF TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES. IN THIS REGARD, YOUR EXCELLENCY, MAY I MENTION THAT
THE UNITED STATES WILL ALSO BE CELEBRATING A GREAT FESTIVAL IN THE
NEAR FUTURE, OUR BICENTENNIAL. THE EVENTS OF 1776 BEGAN A PROCESS
OF SIGNIF FOR MANY NATIONS THROUGHTOUT THE WORLD, NOT THE LEAST
OF THEM BEING NIGERIA. IT IS OUVNCERE HOPE THAT NIGERIANS WILL
HELP US IN CELEBRITHIS EVENT, AND THAT THE BICENTENNIAL LIKE
THE BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL WILL SERVE TO STRENGTHEN OUR COUNTRIES'
FRIENDSHIP.

5. MY GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE THE GREATEST
ADMIRATION FOR THE REMARKABLE SUCCESS THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS
ACHIEVED IN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND REINTEGRATION, A PROGRAM
EXECUTED WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE AND WITH CHARITY FOR ALL.
YOUR PERSONAL LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN CRUCIAL IN THIS EFFORT AND HAS
WON FOR YOU A HIGH PLACE AMONG WORLD STATESMAN.

6. STATESMANSHIP HAS BEEN EVIDENT NOT ONLY IN NIGEIRA'S CONDUCT
OF HER DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, BUT ALSO IN HER ACTIONS ON THE WORLD
STAGE. YOUR GOVERNMENT'S POSITIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE, AND SKILLFUL
DIPLOMACY HAS NURTURED ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FAR-FLUNG
COUNTRIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, AFRICAN, AND PACIFIC REGIONS. ON THE
CONTINENT OF AFRICA -- IN THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY LAND
IN ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN STATES-- NIGERIA IS A
LEADER, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS RESOURCES-- ECONOMIC AND MILITARY--
AND THE ENERGY OF ITS PEOPLE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF ITS MORAL STATURE
AND ITS FIRM COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE AND THE CAUSE OF HUMAN
RIGHTS. IN THE UNITED NATIONS NIGERIA'S COUNSEL COMMANDS RESPECT,
FOR IT COMBINES REASONABLENESS WITH ADHERENCE TO STRONG PRINCIPLES.
OUR GOVERNMENTS MAY FIND THEMSELVES AT VARIANCE OVER PARTICULAR
ISSUES, BUT LET NO ONE BE MISLED, THE UNITED STATES WELCOMES NIGERIA'S

STEADY PRINCIPLED AND WISE STATEMANSHIP ON THE WORLD SCENE.

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PAGE 03 LAGOS 03353 121345Z

UM THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF NATIONS IS BECOMING EVER MORE OBVIOUS.
RATHER THAN ACRIMONY AND THE THREAT OF CONFRANTATION BETWEEN THE
OELOPED AND THE DEVELOPING NATIONS, THE WORLD NEEDS MATURPN
FORTHRIGHT DISCUSSION BETWEEN PERSONS OF GOOD WILL IN ORDER TO SOLVE
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEEMS WHICH BESET US ALL.

IM I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUR
GOVERNMENT TOWARD THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THESE TASKS, FOR I KNOW

NIGERIA'S COMMITMENT TO DO ALL WHICH MAY ACHIEVE JUST AND
LASTING SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS. I CAN ASURE YOUR
EXCELLENCY THAT I SHALL DO MY UTMOST TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE
TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND TO INTESIFY THE FRIENDLY
RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES AND
NIGERIA. END QUOTE.
CROSBY

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